

SAMAA 2015 Combined Nationals Survey Feedback

Thank you to the 31 people that took the time to respond to the short survey. The breakdown of the responses was as follows:

1. 18 x Competitors (58%)
2. 7 x Officials (23%)
3. 1 x Visitor (3%)
4. 5 x Comments from people that did not attend in any of the above capacities

75% of the respondents indicated that they would like the Nationals to be held every year with 10% indicating every 2nd year. 5 people indicated that they would like to go back to the individual Nationals format with 1 person showing a preference for every 3rd or 4th year.

86% showed a preference for the Nationals being held around April to June with 7% opting for January to March and a further 7% for October to December.

68% felt that Klerksdorp was a suitable venue with 13% disagreeing. Bloemfontein was put forward by 3 competitors as being closer to Cape Town. 2 people felt it could be held closer to Gauteng and one respondent asked whether other regions could be considered.

The entry fee was unanimously considered as reasonable and value for money.

With regards to the length of the competition 45% opted for 4 days, 23% opted for 3 days. 16% are willing to support a Nationals that is 5 days long with 10% prepared to support an even longer event. 6% opted for a two day event.

The responses to the questions about what went well and what could be improved are posted verbatim below but here is a short summary.

Generally the flight planning, catering, administration and management were given a thumbs up. The ability to compete in more than one discipline at the same event was also highlighted. Some participants didn't have very high expectations like the one that mentioned "beating Grant Brook in Large Scale". I personally think he was just grateful that he didn't lose to Grant Brook!!!

Advertising the event, trophies for all classes (regardless of size) and general coordination were criticised. Toilet facilities and food variety were mentioned. Seeing that the LSA guys (or at least one of them) were happy to have the pattern pilots on board it would seem appropriate that they return the favour next year (Also with conforming aircraft)!!!!

All in all a successful event from a participant (competitor and official) point of view. SAMAA can improve on a number of aspects and will hopefully plough back the profits from the NATS into next years event.

Firstly the responses to "What worked well?"

Having the RC Aerobatics and LSA flight lines at the southern end of the field. Provide score sheets.

6/29/2015 10:23 PM

Everything pretty much worked out all right. The fact that many pilots entered various disciplines without undue delays is a clear indication that the programme was very well structured which resulted in my opinion in a very successful Combined Nats. Also, many pilots entered various disciplines which they wouldn't have done were it to be individual SIG Nats.

6/27/2015 6:23 PM

It was well organised by Bob and all involved

6/27/2015 10:42 AM

The Weather! The organization was very good.

6/26/2015 9:35 PM

All power Nationals allowed people to participate in different disciplines. SIG's were generally accomodating in waiting for pilots from different flight lines

6/26/2015 8:58 AM

Everything

6/26/2015 8:35 AM

Flight line scheduling and management ran smoothly. General administration also seemed to go without hiccups, none that were noticed anyway. Catering and facilities were great.

6/26/2015 8:06 AM

The food and drink being close

6/25/2015 8:06 PM

flexibility of competitors being able to compete in the different events

6/25/2015 1:25 PM

N/A

6/25/2015 8:32 AM

nc

6/25/2015 7:24 AM

Catering and facilities were very good

6/24/2015 10:09 PM

that I beat Grant Brook in Large Scale

6/24/2015 9:46 PM

Everything. Well organized and a lot of hard work put in.

6/24/2015 8:43 PM

Each discipline having its own line directors. The setup of flight lines was done by it's own people, they know what works best as far as boxes and flags ect. The positioning of the different flight lines.

6/24/2015 8:19 PM

Everything

6/24/2015 7:56 PM

MAASA and LSA flight line was well run Interaction with other SIGs was good

6/24/2015 7:49 PM

Everything!!

6/24/2015 7:40 PM

Everything

6/24/2015 5:37 PM

The fact that many of us were able to once again enter multiple disciplines - makes this a fun and exciting EVENT, not just a serious one SIG competition. The venue is quite central and easy to access for most The Venue Hosts (Cliffy and Brenda) well they were just exceptional and made everyone very welcome. The attitude of the officials to accommodating guys in multi disciplines was really good, this is vital and was really well done.

6/24/2015 4:45 PM

The intervals between each event, i thought it was well planned, and i was not rushed to complete an event in order to be ready for the next one. Having the PA system near the crowds worked great! having the exciting events near the crowds was an excellent idea.

6/24/2015 4:43 PM

Everything

6/24/2015 4:24 PM

The options that allowed spectators to watch different flying disciplines.

6/24/2015 4:17 PM

In the past the combined Nationals was held over the Easter weekend and was well supported. The weekend used meant that a large number of people needed to close their businesses for 3 days. (Friday, Saturday and Monday) Easter weekend will necessitate 2 days.

6/24/2015 4:15 PM

Combined format good to see some variety

6/24/2015 4:03 PM

The management of the LSA and Pattern flight line was slick and ran to program

6/18/2015 12:57 PM

The responses to “What do you think could be improved?”

Clear communication regarding the applicable rules (Refer to the issue not to allocate trophies if there are less than 3 pilots in a class. Adherence to SIG Sporting Codes. More autonomy to the SIGs. - Prize giving Banquet after the contest. Mid winter not the best time for a NATS. Provide more funding for the SIGS. MAASA had to pay for accommodation and partial flight tickets for officials. Not sure if the provided accommodation for the officials were adequate. Down side of a combined Nats is that I would have liked to fly LSA and Sport Jets but did not have transport to get the models to the contest site. If the entries grows any more, there would not be enough time to fly all the disciplines on one contest site. NO opportunity to generate some funds for the SIGS. Did not pool resources. Each sig had their own scorers etc.

6/29/2015 10:23 PM

For a competition of this magnitude, and the energy and effort that went into the planning - we were probably 50 entrants shy at a minimum. The venue, organizing effort etc could easily have hosted another 100 entries. Should a similar extravaganza be planned in the future, SAMAA and the individual SIG's should vigorously promote and advertise said to ensure sufficient entries. The LSA competitors were well represented, yet Gavin never arranged for judges. He took it for granted that the pattern judges would also judge LSA. Four of the six pattern judges agreed albeit not happily. First off, how can anyone expect me to judge accurately if I don't even know any of the four schedules. Secondly, having to judge mornings and afternoons relieve me of the opportunity to watch other disciplines, which really pissed me off.

6/27/2015 6:23 PM

We need more sponsors, it is all about the budget. Maybe a prize giving banquet could be nice.

6/27/2015 10:42 AM

Each SIG should have 2-3 days consecutively set aside for its discipline. If a competitor is participating in only one discipline he/she only needs to attend for that period. We came from Cape Town, it cost us a fortune to be there for the duration(we only came to fly Pattern). in fact we had to forfeit our last round because we needed the public holiday to travel back home. Which means we spent all that money and time and had to miss out on the prize giving and the Finale and our fourth round. The pattern Nats (with the current no of entries) could be finish in 2-3 days. If the structure and venue were to change, there would possibly be more than 5 pilots from Cape Town.

6/26/2015 9:35 PM

More choices for daytime meals

6/26/2015 8:58 AM

If at Klerksdorp, bathroom facilities and portable loo's at remote sites. Trophies should be awarded even if less than three competitors per class.

6/26/2015 8:35 AM

Flight line locations to avoid conflicts between lines.

6/26/2015 8:06 AM

I think the communication was poor. I(we) heard about the planned event but only got official notice about 1.5 months before the event? Maybe I am lost but this is a poll. If CA is still good we might want to include CA next time to get even more entries?

6/26/2015 7:42 AM

If mats could be held more central from all not 2 hours vs 14 hrs travelling

6/25/2015 8:06 PM

N/A

6/25/2015 8:32 AM

Was great. I however think the food/drinks were expensive / not up to the KRF standard we were used too. I do not think winter is the best time for such an event.

6/25/2015 7:24 AM

Extra flight lines so each discipline can have for than 1 flight per day per competitor. Some competitors that only entered one category, only had chance for one flight per day. Also venue could be different to attract more spectators.

6/24/2015 10:09 PM

i beat him in Pattern

6/24/2015 9:46 PM

Toilets did not work and were very dirty. No toilet paper.

6/24/2015 8:43 PM

Toilet facilities for the flight lines far from club house.

6/24/2015 8:19 PM

cant really think of anything

6/24/2015 7:56 PM

Just think about traveling time and distance in the future

6/24/2015 7:52 PM

Compact the MAASA portion into 2 days and hold LSA sequentially so that those that only want to attend pattern can do so in 2 days. Address the toilet facilities Improve the safety and access of full size aircraft Braai was over priced Non awarding of trophies for <3 competitors an issue Overall coordination needs to be improved Quality of judging, but that is not related to a combined nats Cold in June and cold and sunrise restricts flying hours...becomes an issue if there are significantly more entries.

6/24/2015 7:49 PM

Swept runways. i.e. No loose gravel and stones

6/24/2015 7:40 PM

Trophy's to be handed to all classes even if there is only one competitor in a class

6/24/2015 5:37 PM

better weather timing earlier

6/24/2015 4:55 PM

the gauteng pattern okes LSA flying (sorry, just had to :)) i think a lot of effort went into this and it was well done. there was i think a lot of sceptism before the event. that is now in the past and the success of this event should i believe lead to great numbers at the next event. Pre event marketing - there was some gripes from people they didnt know it was even happening. Post event Marketing - again this will only lead to positive vibes and the guys that didnt attend this one wanting to attend the next. I would really like to see a samaa nationals facebook page perhaps, that can be circulated and everyone from the past event can post pics and results etc on it. the friendly banter and competitive spirits can be seen by all. it allows all to interact on a personal level. Sadly the SAMAA news is not read by many anymore, thats a fact from taking to other members.

6/24/2015 4:45 PM

I was happy, would love to see some hobby shops open shop for the weekend, as well as more public advertising. maybe boards in the town of choice showing where the event is. local newspaper ads, get the public involved and we will grow the sport overall.

6/24/2015 4:43 PM

Nothing

6/24/2015 4:24 PM

Vehicle and Spectator control. Full size aircraft to only be allowed to arrive and depart before, during lunch break and after the days flying. Having the Nationals earlier in the year e.g April, can give the nationals longer flying time.

6/24/2015 4:17 PM

Need more flying, especially if only one event entered. Maybe combined flight lines could speed the event up, but at the cost of having to deal with overlaps in events. But overall very good!

6/24/2015 4:03 PM

Safety wrt overflying of flight lines. Toilet facilities at Pattern/LSA flightline. Trophies for all classes

6/18/2015 12:57 PM